

## PRICE FIXING PROVES FATAL TO COAL MEN

"Snowbirds" Driven Out of Business by Garfield Says Representative.

The "snow bird" is going to have his inning during the Reed committee's investigation of the sugar and coal shortages. Congressmen from West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, where the "snow bird" used to thrive, are taking up the cudgels in his behalf, because they believe his extinction is the reason in large part for the coal famine. Furthermore, several of them blame the Fuel Administration for his demise.

A "snow bird," if you do not live in one of the States named, is the operator of a small wagon mine off the railroads, or, if on the railroads, too small to compete with the bigger mines shipping by rail. Before the Fuel Administration fixed prices on soft coal, there were thousands of snow birds. They supplied the small towns of the Middle West, in large part, and some of them kept down railroad congestion by serving the cities.

"Snowbirds" Killed Off.

And then, to quote Representative Oscar E. Bland, of Indiana, "along came Dr. Garfield to assume office as Fuel Administrator."

"He immediately gave ear to all the big consumers demanding lower prices," said Mr. Bland yesterday, "without proper consideration and without the coal producer being heard. The coal dictator arbitrarily fixed a price on coal of \$1.70 for screenings and \$1.90 for mine run."

"The fixing of this price has struck the coal industry of this nation a hard blow and done more to decrease the output than any other single act that could have been done. No provision was made for the fellow with the thin vein or the bad roof or who mined block coal. No provision was made for the fellow who ran the wagon mine and hauled coal to the railroad. And these fellows in the past produced a great part of the coal of the country. Now they are not able to operate."

The tale of the snow bird will be told before Senator Reed's committee of Middle Western Representatives can get a chance.

Senator Reed said yesterday he hoped the committee would finish the first part of the sugar investigation today and get a start on its work of investigating the coal famine. He still hoped to have Gov. Cox, of Ohio, present early this week.

## Sunday Theater Openings

**Poll's—Buster Brown.**

Buster Brown and Tige stepped right off the funny page on to the stage of Poll's last night.

Boy and dog are just the same lovable, pranking pair that have delighted kiddies and grownups for years in Outcault's cartoons.

Plenty of complications thicken the plot to just the consistency that suits Buster. Two love affairs that have gone askew, and a visiting maiden aunt who threatens to make Brown home a most uncomfortable place, give Buster plenty of scope to exercise his talent for boyish roguery. Incidentally, he earns the incalculable sum of \$15 for himself and Tige by getting rid of the unwelcome aunt and a French count who shows a disposition to like American girls too well.

Master Gabriel, as Buster, is the cleverest kiddie actor imaginable and sustains the character with a freshness and real sense of comedy that rouses the amused enthusiasm of his audience. He was especially attractive in the Boy Scout song, when clad in olive drab, putters and campaign hat, he rides the faithful Tige to victory.

Edgar Bixley, a Washington boy, did some excellent broad comedy work, his role necessitating the character of a tramp, a chef, a ward heeler and a French lady of title, with an Anna Held gait and a punch like Bob Fitzsimmons. His parody, "The I'll Come Back to You," was encored repeatedly.

Other members of the cast were exceptionally good. Especially worthy of mention is Rose Kessner, who played the maiden aunt and sings "Knit, Knit, Knit," with just the accent it needs; also Rosie Crouch, who impersonates the culinary director of the Brown household.

**Gaiety—Bowery Burlesque.**

Plenty of pep and ginger was Joe Hurlitz's byword when he gathered his artists for the Bowery Burlesques, which opened this week's engagement before two packed houses at the Gaiety Theater yesterday. This company shot over one punch after another, which kept the audience in a good humor throughout. Two lively little burlesques, bearing the titles "A Day at Lobster Beach" and "A Night in New York," served as fitting vehicles for the talent in this organization.

This season's offering with its bright, colorful scenes, lavish wardrobe and other investments, combined with a cast of stars, marks Hurlitz's production one of the best that has been seen on the wheel this season.

Frank Harcourt and Billy Foster, who are favorites here, are the comedians of the big company. Harcourt's comedy methods are unique and his dancing excellent. Billy Foster proves a good running mate for Harcourt, while others who add materially to the success of the show are Pauline Paul, Libby Hart, Grace Anderson, Eddie Akin, Jack Hayden, Dave Solenger and a charming shapeless chorus.

Two vaudeville specialties were introduced. Akin, Hayden and Melver rendered a number of good selections, while Miss Pauli showed ability at dancing and singing. The musical numbers, many of which were specially written for the organization, were "Everything That a Girl Should Be," "Down South Everybody's Happy," "Somewhere in France" and "Down in Borneo Isle."

**Loew's Columbia—Geraldine Farrar.**

Geraldine Farrar, gifted star of song and screen, was the attraction at Loew's Columbia yesterday in her latest photoplay, "The Devil Stone," and will remain the feature until Thursday. "The Devil Stone" was prepared for the screen by Jennie MacPherson from a story by Beatrice DeMille and Leighton Asmus. It is without qualification the finest story in which Miss Farrar has ever appeared before the camera.

The theme is based on that powerful force, superstition, and the plot follows the workings of a curse placed upon a certain gorgeous emerald away back in the time when the Norse kings invaded Brittany. Miss Farrar appears first as a Breton fisher-maid and then as a Viking queen, after which the story develops into a compelling modern drama, with the scenes laid in New York. Wallace Reid plays opposite the star, and there are excellent character portrayals contributed by Tully Marshall and Hobart Bosworth. A Hearst-Pathe News and other short reels complete the excellent picture program.

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## ARMY TO RUN 30,000 TRUCKS TO SEAPORTS

Freight Congestion to Be Avoided by Taking Machines Overland.

The army is going to do its bit to relieve freight congestion by shipping all its new motor trucks from Detroit to the seaboard "on the hoof" and making each truck carry its capacity of army supplies to be moved from the interior.

Thirty thousand war trucks will thus move their own power. Each will have a capacity of three tons. To ship the trucks themselves by rail would require 15,000 forty-ton freight cars. The total tonnage that will be taken off the overburdened railroads through this method is therefore over half a million tons. It will relieve 17,500 forty-ton freight cars for other service.

Comprehensive plans have been worked out for the routes. A trunk line between Detroit and New York has been laid out. To it in the West will branch feeder routes from all the supply centers and from it in the East will fan out the roads to the various loading ports.

Quartermaster General Sharp said last night:

"No matter how capable a man may be, he must receive weeks of training before he can become efficient in the transport system up behind the lines in Europe."

The wear and tear on the trucks in this training trip will be infinitesimal compared to the benefit in training the men to travel under adverse winter conditions.

The trucks will move in fleets under the command of their own officers, and the Quartermaster General points out that there will be a fine opportunity for all along the route to serve the government by maintaining roads, having supplies ready and giving information.

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## Rapid-Fire Lingual Aid Offered Men Going Across

English-French-German Book of Vest Pocket Size Available at Office of The Washington Herald at Low Price.

Every soldier going to the front and members of the Army and Navy Medical Corps with orders for "over there" will find an extraordinarily useful and practical companion in a little pocket size "Rapid-Fire English-French-German" language dictionary, which Harper & Brothers are publishing at the nominal price of 50 cents a copy.

Dedicated to "Major General John J. Pershing and the officers and men of the first expeditionary force," this little waterproof book has been compiled with extreme care by a committee of well known teachers, guided by actual experience of soldiers' needs. Not only does it contain keys of pronunciation, but also essential phrases in connection with the hospital, correspondence, money, military rank, aviation and 300 words and terms of trench slang.

Just Look In the Book.

If the American soldier desires aid in digging a trench and is a possessor of this little book all he needs do is to consult a simple index until he comes to "military phrases" under which translations of the words and scores of like phrases may be found. Or should one find himself in a foreign restaurant at a loss to know what to order all he need do is to whip out this little book and find under the proper index the vital phrase "What soup will you have?" in both French and German.

Also, when he is not putting the book to practical use, he may fill in many profitable moments by reading concise compilations of historical information. Included in this category are "One Hundred Years of French History," "Some Great French Fighters and Famous Battles," and "Battles of the French Revolution."

In the back part of the book will be found fifty pages of words which will most likely be needed. Careful selection has been made, and it is doubtful if the compilation will "fall down" in any test the user may put it to.

A number of blank pages have been inserted for memorandum purposes and a two-year calendar placed across the page of dedication.

In all, it is a book for which there recently has been felt an acute need, and it will be found a Christmas gift to be long appreciated by its recipient.

**Herald Offers Bargain.**

Copies of the book may be secured at The Herald office without delay, by saving three coupons which will appear daily in the paper, and 30 cents. By saving one coupon and an expenditure of 40 cents one may procure not only this useful little book but also a subscription to The Herald for one month. If the paper is to be sent by mail it will cost 55 cents to purchase this economical combination.

**Slips, Slides, Laughs Punctuate Footsteps On D. C.'s Icy Streets**

"I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance." It was not the stream that was once the inspiration for a poet which said this yesterday, but a number of feminine shoppers without their "skid chains."

'Twas a merry day for the person who disregarded Mr. Hoover's orders and had accumulated much avoidpous as the result.

One of the most interesting, if not amusing, anecdotes concerned a fair co-ed in the city for the week-end, who envied the young cavalry officer wearing spurs so that he could dig into the thickly accumulated ice and keep his dignity.

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## ARMY TO ESTABLISH VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Drafted Men to Be Equipped for Essential War Work.

Establishment of a war training department for vocational training of conscripted men was announced yesterday by the Federal Board for Vocational Training.

The new department will co-operate with the War Department and Shipping Board in making up the shortage of skilled men for essential war work.

James P. Munroe, of Boston, vice chairman of the board, is organizing the department. Its first task will be to train 15,000 radio and buzzer operators for the United States Signal Corps. Training of 4,000 will be completed early in 1918.

All kinds of skilled workers are needed. It is planned to train such conscripted men as have not been called, as well as material supplied through the nation's schools.

**Gus J. Karger Elected Press Club President**

Members of the National Press Club chose the following officers for the coming year: President, Gus J. Karger, Cincinnati Times-Star; vice president, Earl Godwin, Washington Times; secretary, Jesse S. Cottrell, Nashville Banner; treasurer, John M. Smallwood, Washington Star; financial secretary, Jay G. Hayden, Detroit News; members of board of governors—Norborne Robinson, Buffalo News; Albert St. Clair, assistant to the director of publicity of the Liberty Loans; Raymond B. Morgan, New York Herald; C. R. Mitchell, New York Times; and George L. Edmunds, New York Sun.

**\$500,000 FOR LIBERTY LOAN.**

Akron, Ohio, Dec. 16.—Several thousand stockholders of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company today subscribed \$500,000 to the Liberty loan and set aside \$1,000,000 for old age pensions, employees' insurance and other welfare work. A report showed a total surplus in the treasury of \$26,122,324, after payment of dividends.

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